

REMARKSI. Status of the claims

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, and 15-27 are pending. Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claims 10 and 11. Claims 18-20 have been amended into more traditional method claims to depend on claim 15. New claim 27 recites the subject matter of original claim 20, but is dependent on claim 23. No new matter has been added through these amendments.

II. Rejection of claims 13 and 17-26 based on Saito

Claims 13 and 17-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over European patent Publication 917964 to Saito et al. ("Saito").

The examiner states that the polycarbonate of Saito are made from bisphenol and would be hydroxy terminated where the carbonyl does not react with two hydroxy groups. Applicants respectfully disagree. Since polycarbonates are typically injection molded at high temperatures, the presence of hydroxy groups would be highly undesirable. Any hydroxy groups that could be present would likely be derived from the bis-phenol A monomer. However, such hydroxy groups are particularly reactive and would thus need to be eliminated from the polycarbonate or kept to a minimum level to ensure the stability of the polymer. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not expect the polycarbonates of Saito to be hydroxy terminated.

With regard to claim 13, Applicants have amended the claim to recite the presence of a cross-linked acrylic subcoat between the substrate and the coating. The examiner has indicated that a similar amendment, when introduced into claim 1, overcame the teachings of Saito. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 13 based on Saito.

With regard to claims 17-20, claim 17 has been cancelled and claims 18-20 have been amended to depend on claim 15, an allowed claim. When amended to depend on claim 15, Applicants have placed claims 18-20 in the traditional method format to clarify that the method elements are recited as substantive elements of the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 18-20 based on Saito.

With regard to claims 21-27, Applicants note that all of these claims recite a receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising a vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer. Saito, however, does not teach or suggest a receiver material having an image-receiving surface containing a vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer. Rather, Saito uses a protective layer comprising an aromatic polycarbonate resin which is soluble in a nonhalogenated solvent. See paragraphs 12-15. Accordingly, Saito does not anticipate or render obvious claims 21-27, and Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 21-26 based on Saito.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 13 and 17-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or § 103(a).

III. Rejection of claims 17 and 18 based on Hashimoto and/or Shimomine

The examiner has rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,783,375 to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto"). The examiner has also rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,434,598 to Shimomine et al. ("Shimomine").

Claim 17 has been cancelled in this response. Claim 18 has been amended to depend on claim 15, an allowed claim. When amending claim 18 to depend on claim 15, Applicants have placed the claim in the traditional method format to clarify that the method elements are recited as substantive elements of the claim. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 17 and 18 based on Hashimoto and Shimomine.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth above. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel in order to resolve any remaining issues.

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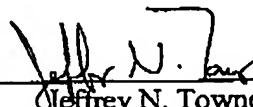
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 12, 2005

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